The US Government stated that it was taking the step in recongnition of the progress in their dialogue with India.

Recently, the US did not obstruct approval of a World Bank loan for infrastructure and power development in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Four projects worth US $1.236 billion which were negotiated and ready for World Bank Board approval, have been deferred.

Agreement with Pakistan

1003. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan has signed an agreement not to resort to firing on residential areas at borders and also to exchange information relating to smuggling activities across the border;

(b) if so, when such an agreement was signed; and

(c) whether the agreement is being honoured in letter and spirit by Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Pakistani forces resort to unprovoked firing at the International Border and the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir. They also cause casualties by targeting civilian areas during the course of such unprovoked firing. While our forces respond suitably to Pakistani firing, India has, through the agreed and established channels, repeatedly urged Pakistan to restrain its forces from firing accross the border and the LOC.

Mechanisms have been established at governmental and operational levels for co-operation in combating drug trafficking. The Home Secretary of India and the Interior secretary of Pakistan discuss the subject of terrorism and drug Trafficking within the composite dialogue process. The Revenue Secretary of India also has discussions with the Secretary Narcotics Control Division of Pakistan on the control of drug trafficking and smuggling.

Withdrawal of Sanctions

1004. SHRI KARNEDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sanctions, which were imposed on India by the U.S. after Pokharan test;

(b) the details of the sanctions which have since been withdrawn;

(c) whether any further sanctions have been withdrawn after the visit of Dy. Secretary of the States to our country recently; and

(d) if not, whether the talks with the Dy. Secretary of the States were successful?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The US imposed restrictive economic measures on India under the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act 1994 (NPPA), popularly known as the Glenn Amendment, on May 13, 1998. These measures were:

- Termination of assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, except for humanitarian assistance for food or other agricultural commodities.

- Termination of sales of defence articles, defence services, or design and construction services under the Arms Export Control Act, and termination of licences for the export of any item on the United States Munitions List.

- Termination of all foreign military financing under the Arms Export Control Act.

- Denial of any credit, Credit gurantees, or other financial assistance by any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States Government.
- The United States will oppose extension of any loan for financial or technical assistance by any international financial institution.
- Prohibition of United States banks from making any loan or providing any credit to the Government of India, except for the purposes of purchasing food or other agricultural commodities.
- Prohibition of export of specific goods and technology subject to export licensing by the Commerce Department.

(b) In the Guidelines defining the scope of sanctions on June 18, 1998, one relaxation was made, namely, the US would not oppose basic human needs loans from international financial institutions.

In July 1998, the US Congress passed an amendment called "Agriculture Export Relief Act of 1998" which took out of the purview of "sanctions" any credit, credit guarantee or financial assistance to support the purchase of goods or other agricultural commodities including fertilisers. Also exempted from "sanctions" were medicines and medical equipment.

On November 6, 1998, on the basis of authority given to the US President by the Brownback Amendment passed by the US Congress, partial lifting of "sanctions" was announced. The order giving effect to these relaxations were signed by the US President on 1 December, 1998. These relaxations are:

- Restoration of US Exim Bank, Overseas Private Insurance Corporation (OPIC) and Trade Development Agency (TDA) Programmes
- Restoration of lending by US Banks.
- Restoration of International Military Education and Training (IMETR) Programme

The US Government stated that it was taking this step in recognition of the progress made in the dialogue with India.

(c) On February 18, 1999, the US did not obstruct the approval of a World Bank loan for infrastructure and power development in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) A joint statement was issued on January 31, 1999 at the conclusion of last round of talks, wherein both sides expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the talks.

As in earlier meetings, the security perspectives of the two sides were further clarified with a view to harmonising respective perspectives. Both sides recognised that the purpose of the talks is to lay the foundation of a broad-based relationship between India and the United States.

Government's position regarding unilateral restrictive economic measures is clear Government regards all such measures as unjustified and counter-productive and is of the view that they should be lifted. Government, however, will not negotiate security issues on this basis. Government have also stated that for the successful conclusion of talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient.

Cases pending with Central Administrative Tribunals

1009. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending disposal in the Central Administrative Tribunals, tribunal-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons for their long pendency and the steps taken to improve the rate of disposal in the tribunals; and

(c) whether the purpose to deliver quick and cheap justice in administrative matters has not been achieved?